

Condeleeza Rice, the National Security Advisor, and honor the late Sergio de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights who was killed in Iraq.

I also want to focus on the unique opportunities which IRI provides for Americans to share the skills they have honed on campaign trails and in the halls of Congress with their counterparts in developing democracies. Volunteers from across the U.S. augment IRI's operations in over 56 countries by conducting specialized training missions on crafting campaign finance laws, strengthening political participation among women and youth, and implementing political polling. Additionally, IRI frequently sends volunteers to serve on election observation missions. Recently, my own Chief of Staff, Eric Dell returned from an election observation mission in Macedonia where he worked with IRI professionals from across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, IRI's use of volunteers builds goodwill for the U.S. as Americans assist men and women overseas to strengthen political parties and democratic institutions. For example, interactions between a city administrator from rural South Carolina and a mayor in Malawi can go far in breaking misconceptions about the U.S. and about the prognosis for democracy in Africa. IRI volunteers demonstrate to newly elected parliamentarians in Eastern Europe that building democratic institutions is not only a goal of U.S. government officials but that it is the desire of the American people. I hope that my colleagues and their staffers consider participating in IRI training missions as one of the best opportunities to play a critical role in implementing U.S. foreign policy.

HONORING SISTER ROSEMARY
WARD FOR HER ENDLESS SERVICE
AND DEDICATION TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a remarkable citizen from my district, Sister Rosemary Ward. Sister Rosemary was recently presented with the Patrick Daly Memorial Award for her dedication to the care and education of children on Staten Island. For almost 55 years, she has been an exceptionally devoted teacher and principal in schools within my district. As do the truly great educators, she possesses a deep understanding and compassion for children. In combining this gift with her own values and ideals, she has created a holistic philosophy for education that has made her an invaluable asset to the community as teacher and principal. Her achievements are widely known and well sung by the innumerable citizens she's left a lasting impression upon. It is with pleasure and honor that I'd like to congratulate Sister Rosemary for this distinguished award, and on behalf of the citizens of Staten Island offer my most sincere gratitude for the extraordinary contributions she's made to the community.

HONORING HERNANDO COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and the Brooksville City Police Department for their commitment to maintaining law and order while safeguarding county residents. Hernando County has grown tremendously. It is regarded as one of the fastest growing counties in the nation with a population that has increased 330 percent since 1980. This growth has presented new challenges to our local law enforcement agencies. Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Sheriff Nugent and Police Chief Boyce, Hernando County continues to be provided effective and professional law enforcement.

I would like to recognize the bravery and selflessness of the fine individuals who wear the badge as this week marks Hernando County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. These fine individuals who serve in law enforcement are an exceptional breed. They serve in the line of fire to protect us from harm's way and ask for little in return. The brave men and women of Hernando County law enforcement have more than earned our gratitude and whole hearted support. I am so very proud of our local sheriffs and police and happily thank them for their service and dedication to the county's safety. The residents of Hernando County and I are indebted to them.

RECOGNIZING FREEMAN'S FUR
SHOP

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Freeman's Fur Shop, an outstanding small business with a unique history in my hometown of Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Freeman's Furs is owned and operated by Mr. Paul Shaftranck. The business has operated for 68 years. Freeman's was founded by the late Howard Freeman when he fashioned a fox fur neckpiece for his wife. The business expanded to an internationally known landmark. For many years, Howard Freeman trapped many of the animals and then designed and made the coats. Upon his death in 1994, his son, Lindsay, took over the business along with his daughter, Ann Freeman Peace. In 1997, Freeman sold the business to Shaftranck.

Freeman's Furs has offered fur design, creation, storage, cleaning and repairs to customers from around the world. The quality of work performed and customer service provided is a testament to Howard Freeman. Freeman Fur's will cease operation in April, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Freeman's Fur Shop is beloved by its faithful customers and all who walk through its doors. It is a shining example of the significance and economic impact a small business can have on a community. I

am proud to bring the accomplishments of Freeman's Fur Shop and its employees to the attention of this House.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN SNYDER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Justin Snyder attained his bar mitzvah on May 1, 2004. Justin is a seventh grade honor student at Pace Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. He is sincerely committed to academics, as evidenced by his effort to obtain all "A's" in each of the last quarter's grading periods over the past twelve (12) quarters. Such an achievement has earned him the distinction of being placed on the Headmaster's List for the past four (4) years. Justin has also participated on the Academy's debate team, where he won many awards for his scholastic achievements. Finally, he is a member of "People to People Student Ambassadors", a travel program, which has enabled him to travel with other young people to Washington DC, California, Australia, and this summer to Europe.

Justin also finds time for recreational and sporting activities. He is an avid basketball, baseball, and tennis player—having won trophies in each sport. From his enjoyment of skiing, he has secured many awards in the form of pins and medallions, and has skied on various slopes not only throughout the United States, but also the world. Justin has scuba dived in the Cayman Islands, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and has caught a seventy-two (72) inch sailfish off the coast of Cancun.

Even at a relatively young age, Justin Snyder has left his mark on the youth community in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia; evidencing a strong sense of fundamental fairness in his dealings with others, and strong moral principles, gleaned from his friends, his religious upbringing, and his family. I know that we will continue to see more great accomplishments for this fine young man, as he grows and blossoms into manhood. I am proud to recognize, and to honor Mr. Justin Snyder on this important step in his life, and wish him much continued success for the future.

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 56th anniversary of Israel's independence.

The dream of a Jewish state stretches back two millennia to the destruction of the ancient Jewish kingdom of Israel. At the end of the Nineteenth Century, after the two thousand years of diaspora, persecution, and pogroms, Theodor Herzl and his fellow Zionists began the drive to revive the Jewish homeland. The unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust cemented the necessity of a Jewish state, and Israel was finally established as a sovereign and independent nation on May 14, 1948.